

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CAIRO 12329 131630Z

67

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W

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R 131531Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6994

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

S E C R E T CAIRO 12329

EXDIS

E. O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR IS EG US

SUBJ: ISRAELI HARASSMENT IN GULF OF SUEZ

REF: (A) CAIRO 12268 (B) STATE 225441

1. WHEN WITH GENERAL GAMASY SEPTEMBER 13 I BRIEFLY
DISCUSSED WITH HIM CURRENT STATE OF PLAY ON AMOCO
OIL OPERATIONS IN GULF OF SUEZ. I SAID
WE HAD CONTINUED TO HOLD DISCUSSIONS WITH ISRAELIS TO
ASSERT RIGHT TO AMOCO TO DRILL IN ITS CONCESSION AREAS.
THESE DISCUSSIONS HAD THUS FAR BEEN INCONCLUSIVE BUT
WE WERE TRYING TO WORK OUT A PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENT
UNDER WHICH AMOCO COULD CONTINUE ITS OIL OPERATIONS
EAST OF MEDIAN LINE. IN THE MEANTIME WE HOPED VERY
MUCH TO AVOID ANY INCIDENTS IN THE AREA.

2. GAMASY SAID HE HAD RECEIVED REPORTS FROM
FONMIN FAHMY AND MINPET HILAL CONCERNING THEIR
DISCUSSIONS WITH ME ON THIS SUBJECT.
THESE REPORTS HAD BROUGHT HIM UP-TO-DATE ON THE
PROBLEM SINCE HIS LAST DISCUSSION WITH AMBASSADOR
EILTS ON SEPTEMBER 4. GAMASY SAID THERE WERE
NO EGYPTIAN GUNBOATS IN IMMEDIATE AREA AND HE HAD
NO CURRENT PLANS TO SEND THEM THERE. HE AGREED
WITH DESIRABILITY OF AVOIDING FURTHER INCIDENTS AND
SAID HE HOPED WE WERE ABLE TO WORK OUT

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MODUS VIVENDI BEFORE THE SEPTEMBER 21 DEADLINE.

3. COMMENT: GAMASY SEEMED CALM AND RELAXED AND EXHIBITED NONE OF THE BLUSTER THAT FONMIN FAHMY HAD ON SATURDAY. HE MADE NO REFERENCE TO POSSIBLE RETALITORY ACTIONS BY EGYPT AND FAHMY MAY IN FACT NOT HAVE REPEATED TO HIM WHAT HE HAD TOLD ME ABOUT POSSIBLE EGYPTIAN OPTIONS. WE FEEL CONFIDENT THAT EGYPTIAN NAVY WILL NOT PROVOKE ANY INCIDENTS AT THIS TIME.

MATTHEWS

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NNN

Message Attributes

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